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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
12 November 1954

TO : Deputy Director (Intelligence)  
SUBJECT: Impending Czechoslovak Elections

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1. Date: 28 November 1954

2. Offices to be filled: All deputies to the Czechoslovak National Assembly and to the Slovak National Council.

Under the revised electoral law of May 1954, a total of 368 deputies will be elected for six years to the National Assembly. One candidate has been registered from each of the 368 electoral districts. Formerly, membership totalled 300. Under the laws of the 1948 constitution the present elections to the National Assembly must be held every 6 years. The deadline for the present assembly is December 1954.

The Slovak National Council, the legislative body for Slovakia, is composed of 100 members. Its post-election membership is expected to increase slightly due to the increase in constituencies based on population.

3. Parties Participating: The candidates for the National Assembly will be those proposed by the National Front, a Communist-controlled bloc representing the Communist Party, the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement, the Czechoslovak Union of Youth, the Czechoslovak Socialist Party, the Czechoslovak People's Party (Catholic), the Party of Slovak Regeneration, the Slovak Party of Freedom and "other mass organizations of the working people."

Candidates for the Slovak National Council election will be proposed by the Central Election Commission in Bratislava which is also responsible for parliamentary elections in Slovakia. Therefore, the National Front will submit candidate lists in Slovakia for both legislative bodies.

4. Party Representation: The party representation of the present National Assembly "elected" in May 1948 was distributed at the time as follows: Communist Party--237, People's

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Party--23. Socialist Party--23, Slovak Regeneration Party--12, Slovak Freedom Party--4, non-party--1. No significant changes in party representation have been noted since that time. There were no elections to the Slovak National Council in 1948, nor since that time.

In June 1948 the composition of the Council was "adjusted" by a ruling of the National Assembly to conform with the results of the elections to the National Assembly in May 1948 which had been based upon the single list of candidates selected by the National Front.

5. Significant Features: Since both the National Assembly and the Slovak National Council are no more than rubber stamp bodies, the elections are significant only as a propaganda stunt of the regime. The results are a foregone conclusion, and will reaffirm the "enthusiastic support" accorded the present government. The elections follow by only six months the nationwide local elections held last May.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON  
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Current Intelligence



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